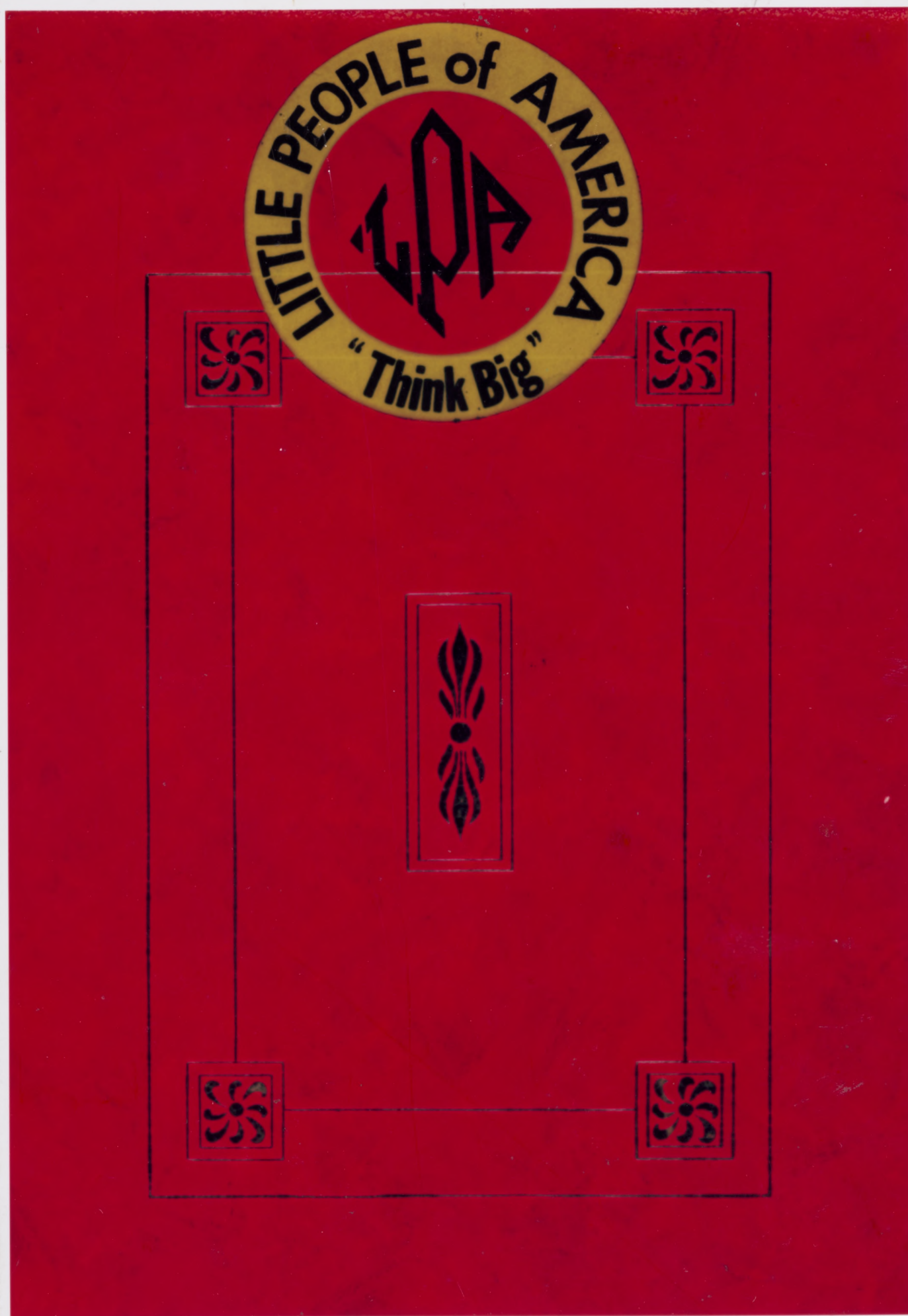


S1248



Scrapbook Newsclips from 1929 - 1972 Pt. 2 Lillian Johnson LPA CHARTER MEMBER

S1248



1967 Lillian Johnson
Charter Member Little People of America

Mayor Makes It Official

Shorty Anderson Day in S. F.

Little Man's Big Moment

James Rolph Jr., the "Sunny Jim" of 1921, was Mayor of San Francisco when Albert Anderson opened his newsstand at Grant Ave. and Market St.

George Christopher, the Mayor of San Francisco three decades later, was the man who yesterday said goodbye for the city to Shorty.

SOON 66 YRS. OLD

As a bright June sun shone down on hundreds of passers-by, the Mayor ventured to Grant and Market to present a framed proclamation to Shorty.

Four feet, two inches tall, by measurement, Shorty was about nine feet of smiles as the Mayor handed him the proclamation.

'VERY NICE THING'

It read, in part, that Christopher had duly proclaimed yesterday "ALBERT 'SHORTY' ANDERSON DAY in San Francisco, and takes this occasion to wish him and his charming wife, Mannette, many years of continued happiness together and do hereby call upon all citizens of San Francisco to honor this distinguished Bay area resident on this day."

Shorty, who will soon be 66, beamed, and presented his relatives: three sisters, a



IT'S HIS DAY — Albert "Shorty" Anderson thanks Mayor Christopher for proclamation honoring him upon his retirement from newsstand at Market and Grant. At left, Mrs. Nancy Simonds, Anderson's niece, and in center, her children, Valerie, 8, and Pamela, 3.

brother, one niece, and three grand-nieces, to the Mayor. Mayor, "is proud of its personalities, and Shorty is certainly in that group."

Shorty, who lives at 970 Green Ave., San Bruno, said: "This is a very nice thing."



ALBERT ANDERSON
"I talked nice to them"

After 3 Decades

Shorty's Leaving Same Old Stand

By Donovan Bess

Next Friday evening Albert (Shorty) Anderson will close down his strag-

gling, friendly newsstand in front of the Wells Fargo Bank at Market street and Grant avenue.

The squat, cheerful businessman worked as a carnival magician before he established the newsstand on February 6, 1930. He brought a showman's magic to the busy corner.

Some of his customers walk blocks out of their way for the lift of buying a paper or a magazine from him. Last week, hundreds of businessmen, store clerks and shoppers paused to shake his hand and say, with feeling, "We'll miss you, Shorty."

"I talk nice to them," said Anderson.

PAGE 38 CCCCCA
Monday, June 26, 1961
San Francisco Chronicle

June 26, 1961

One Tall Career

'I'll Miss You, Shorty'

His Market St. Kiosk Closes After 30 Yrs.

By WILLIAM O'BRIEN

The long and short of a tall career ends Friday at Grant Ave. and Market St. That is the day Albert Anderson closes his newspaper and magazine kiosk after 30 years service.

It was service with a quip, a story, and always with a smile. And it was a smile that covered one quarter of Anderson's physiognomy, for he is but 4 feet, 2 inches in height—a midget in all but personality and qualities that are popularly called "heart."

"I'll miss you shorty," said a middle-age woman employe of the bank on the corner, mirroring the sentiments of at least the 200 persons who daily patronize Anderson's corner.

FALLS IN LOVE

"I'll miss you, Shorty," said a middle-age age gets a man," replied the smiling Shorty, who will soon celebrate his 66th birthday.

Exactly 30 of those years have been spent dispensing The Examiner, magazines, and other newspapers to those in need of information or literary relaxation.

Shorty's has been a job of choice, for he fell in love with San Francisco in 1931, following a long bout as a carnival fire eater (it's easy—you use white gasoline on the torch and if you don't hold the fumes too long in your mouth, you won't get burned), circus clown and "hostler" for railway engines.

Despite his love-at-first sight of San Francisco, Shorty faced the problem of a job. This was soon solved when he was offered the proprietorship of the news stand at Grant and Market. It was then a three foot broad affair with almost no patronage. Today it is at least 12 feet in width with a reading selection ranging from comic books to the more esoteric literary reviews.

WELCOME HOME

In 1937, Shorty tired of his prosperous bachelor life and corresponded with a young lady named Mannette from Duluth, Minn. She was 46 inches tall and Shorty married her five years later in Bethany Lutheran Church in Berkeley.

Mannette became almost as familiar a figure as Shorty to San Franciscans through the years, for she was Shorty's helpmate at the newsstand. Recently, she suffered a heart attack but Shorty is prepared to welcome her home from the hospital Sunday.

For her welcome, he has had the home at 970 Green Ave., San Bruno, painted and



NEWS VENDOR 'SHORTY' RETIRING
... Albert Anderson, 65, at his kiosk

scrubbed, including the miniature furniture and the box Mannette must stand on while cooking on her full size stove.

Does Shorty mind being called Shorty? "No," he replied, adding it is something a boy must live with when he is one of 14 normal size children.

"What I can't stand are remarks made by some ignorant people. They hurt," he adds.

And who will replace Shorty on the corner?

No one. Starting next Monday, July 3, three iron racks, six inches taller than Shorty, will dispense the day's newspapers.

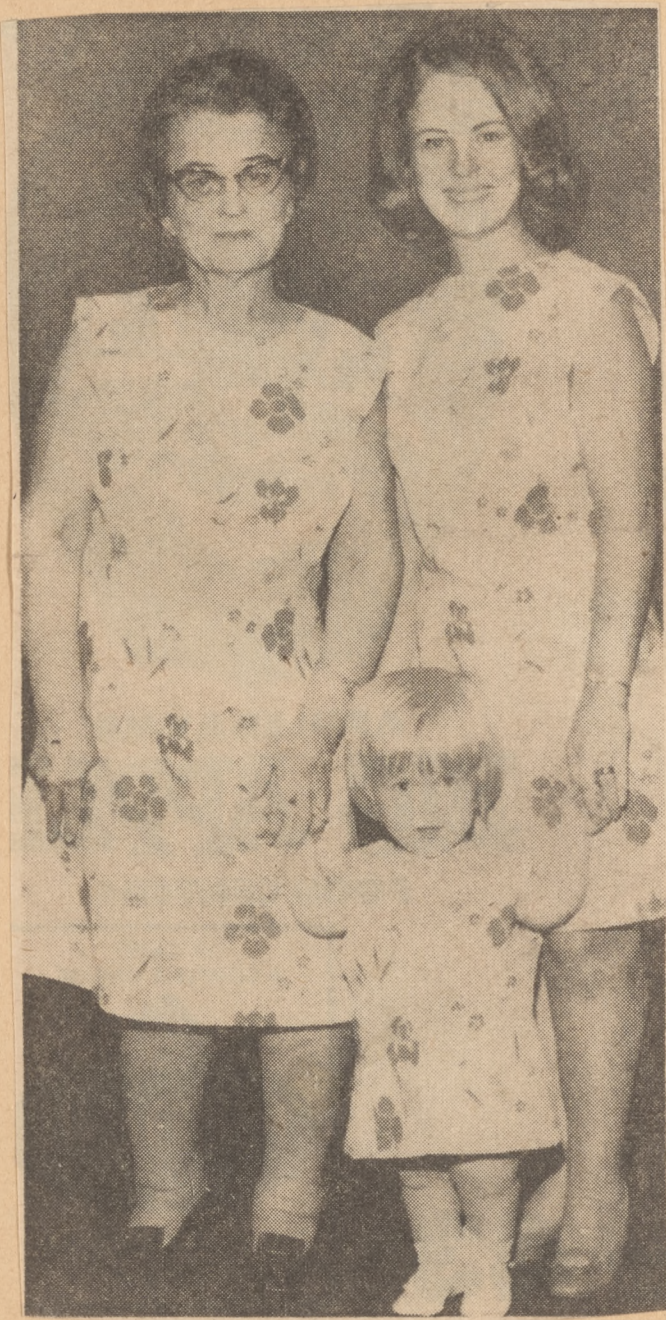
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PORTRAIT OF A Small Businessman ... He's been at the same old newspaper-magazine stand at Market and Grant for 30 years. Thousands of pedestrians know the smiling four-footer only as "Shorty."

Albert (Shorty) Anderson's first job was fixing engines in a Midwest roundhouse. Then came a career in vaudeville as an escape artist and flaming sword swallower. The show came to San Francisco and Shorty decided to make this his home.

In 1942 a friend in Minnesota asked if he'd be interested in corresponding with a pretty girl who was his size and equally lonesome. She came west to visit a sister, they were introduced, and, blushes Shorty, it was love at first sight. Oct 25, 1960

Until recently Nanette worked side by side with Shorty in operating their newsstand. "Now that I'm getting along in years," he quips, "I guess Nanette figures I'm too old to flirt and has decided to stay home."

Shorty's stand will be closed for a week next month when he and Nanette take off for Reno to convene with the rest of the "Little People of America."



Accidents uries to Nine

The Sac

He gives his height as four feet, 2½ inches. His customers treat him with the affection usually reserved for a child, and he speaks of them as "the grown-ups."

Anderson is 65 and eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. He will retire to his home at 970 Green avenue, San Bruno, with his wife, Manette (three feet, 10 inches), whom he married 19 years ago.

All has not been sweetness during Anderson's three decades on the Wells Fargo corner. Sometimes, he said, the police thought he was using too much sidewalk space.

"I went down to the Mayor's office a couple of times," he said. "The wife and I went in there. Everywhere we went, people said, 'Hi, Shorty.'"

"I talked nice to them, and they said, 'Kind of pull in a little bit' and everything was straightened out."

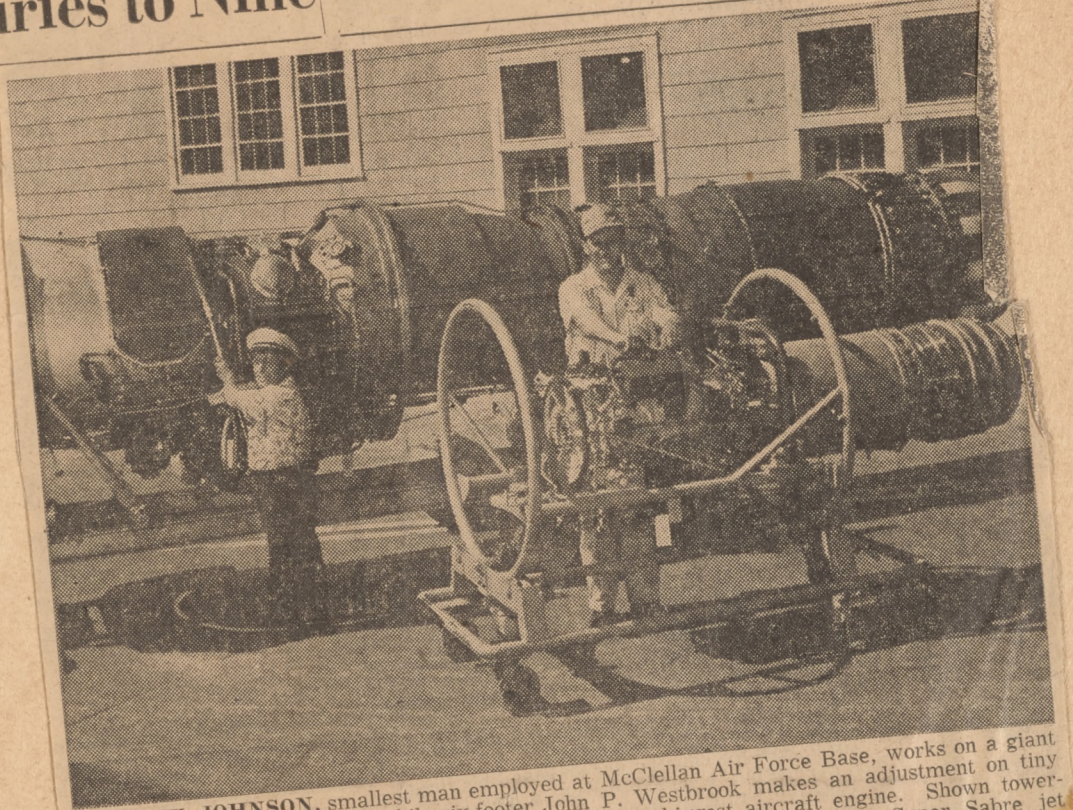
For 10 years, until 1929, he travelled with a carnival in 35 states, eating fire and performing magic.

"I worked with a fat girl and a skinny fellow," he said. "The girl weighted 500 pounds. The skinny fellow was about six feet and he weighed 64 pounds."

During winters in the early 1920's, he sold The Chronicle at the corner of Powell and Market streets.

Anderson said he is looking forward to retirement. He has a game leg and his wife has suffered a heart attack and needs him to look after her.

He has nine sisters and 2 brothers, all "grown up."



WAINO W. JOHNSON, smallest man employed at McClellan Air Force Base, works on a giant J-57 jet aircraft engine (left), while six-footer John P. Westbrook makes an adjustment on tiny T-56 turboprop engine at right. The J-57 is the base's biggest aircraft engine. Shown towering over the four foot, 4-inch Johnson, it powers the North American F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter. The T-56 turboprop engine is one of four power units used by the Lockheed Hercules, the Air Force's newest combat transport.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE MEET

Mrs. Lillie Johnson, 917 Dwina, just arrived home Monday morning after a month long trip to the east highlighted by a Little Peoples of America Convention in Gloucester, New Jersey.

The four-day convention included a talent show, a Roaring '20's dance, a fashion show featuring fashions made and modeled by the little people, ball games, bowling tournaments, and topped by the crowning of a new King and Queen elected to reign for a two year period.

To join the Little People, you must not be over 4'10" tall. The primary purpose of the conventions and meetings are to discuss and to compare solutions of the everyday problems that little people encounter. For example, using a pay telephone can be a hair-raising experience if you stand two feet below the receiver, and modern kitchens are far out of the reach of most members. Employment problems were also discussed by the group.

The Little People will have a district convention in Bakersfield over the Labor Day weekend which will be held at the Hacienda Motel.

From Gloucester, Mrs. Johnson traveled to Ipswich, Mass., to visit with her brother-in-law whom she had seen only once before. After Ipswich, Mrs. Johnson flew to Texas spending two weeks visiting friends and family in her home town.

Mrs. Johnson traveled by train from Texas to Bakersfield, tired but happy to be home from a most exciting holiday.

Mrs. Johnson resides with her niece, Mrs. Cecil Gibson.

day, week or month."

mbrogio, baker's helper: "I'd enjoy the money. The first thing I'd do is buy my mother a house as I promised her. There are a lot of other things I could use the money for, too. A fellow certainly must get a bang out of heart throb of millions of might even swoon when appears on the screen. The obing the stars have to do be a chore for me. I don't ever fire of it."

lady of whom you spoke. The British girls don't have us beaten by any means. We love uniforms too--and those of our own country, not some other one. We love your uniforms, and especially you who are wearing them. Many persons, other than your families and sweethearts realize and appreciate what you are doing for us. We thank all of you in America for our free America.

SMALL FRY.

BABY QUESTION

I am utterly disgusted with the situation presented by the divorcee who wrote to Dorothy Dix and complained that mothers just don't seem like mothers any more. Her objection was that her mother didn't want to take care of her baby while she went out at nights having a good time. I wonder where

This leaves us very little time for your so-called competition. Every day we are thankful we live in America, regardless of what we have or have not.

AMERICAN GIRL.

WIDOW'S PROBLEM

I am a widow of 26 with four children--ages seven, four, three and two. We receive aid for dependent children which allows the grand sum of \$18 a month for the first child and \$12 for the others. This amounts to \$54 a month for the four children. Of course, the relief supplements that with \$11.80. This makes \$65.80 a month for rent, food, clothing and anything else the family or home needs. I would like a budget which would enable me to manage on this. We are the forgotten people.

Someone he can look up to

Study in contrast is presented as Stanley Ross, 34, of Detroit, standing, at full height of 3 feet 2 inches, and Evelyn Lucas, 28, of Cincinnati, a nice 5 feet, 8 inches, obtain marriage license from Virgil Dresser, deputy clerk. Tall, dark and handsome gent at left is Henry Hite, 7-foot, 9-inch partner of Ross in vaudeville comedy act, who served as best man at couple's wedding in county marriage court shortly after license was obtained. (TIMES Photo)





REMINISCING — Mr. and Mrs. Buster Resmondo recall their adventures in the movies and TV, and the stars they have worked with. They have been stand-ins for many

child stars, and Buster has been a stunt man for others. He once "fell" down two flights of stairs for the "Loretta Young Show."

Little people - Leprechauns?

(Continued from Page 1)
She belongs to the Hawthorne Easter Star, and he is a member of the Masons in Los Angeles. They also belong to an organization for the Little People of America.

"As well as being social, the Little People introduce us to the world," Mrs. Resmondo said. The group also encourages employers to give jobs to little people.

According to the Resmondo's there are between 3 and 4,000 members in the national organization.

As a hobby Buster has invented a tone-control for the violin, and hand-made a quite intricate covered wagon.

The couple resides at 4116 West Broadway with Topsy, their "little" poodle.



WITH THE STARS — Mrs. Hazel Resmondo and Milbourne Stone, "Doc," whom she worked with in a "Gun-smoke" sequence, and has known since he started in show business. On the right, she is with Cary Grant on the set of "Mother Goose," in which she was a stand-in for one of the children.

Little people-Leprechauns?

By PAT JACKSON

Hawthorne may not have many elves or leprechauns, but the city does have some "Little People," and famous ones at that.

Diminutive Hazel and Buster Resmondo, longtime residents of the area, stand about four feet, four inches tall, and have been in many movies and television shows, as well as being active members of the community.

Mrs. Resmondo's first movie was the "Wizard of Oz," where, she says, she "danced her feet off." The moved starred Judy Garland.

She was also the main double for Margaret O'Brien in many of the child star's picture and doubled for Natalie Wood when the actress was a little girl and starred in "Green Promise."

Buster, in earlier days, did stunt work for Tommy Rettig in "My Mother" and George Stevens in "Greatest Story Ever Told." He also worked with Dean Stockwell in "Down the Sea in Ships," which starred Wendell Corey.

In 1935, Buster shared the bill with James Cagney, when he portrayed an elf in "Midsummer Night's Dream."

More recently, Mrs. Resmondo has been on several TV series, including "Breaking Point," "Bonanza," "Gunsmoke" and "Wagon Train." She also doubled for Rusty and Linda on the "Danny Thomas Show," and Jerry Mathers on "Leave It to Beaver."

With Mrs. Resmondo as his stand-in for four and a half years, Beaver was the only male star with a female stand-in.

Under California law, child actors are allowed to work only four hours a day. They must spend the other four in school. At the time they needed a stand-in for Beaver (Jerry Mathers), there were no males available, so Mrs. Resmondo was given the job.

"We had a lot of fun on that show—it was kind of like a family," she reminisces.

Mrs. Resmondo also worked in "8 On A Lam" with Bob Hope "Father Goose" with Cary Grant, and "Red Pony" with Robert Mitchum. Buster had one of the leads in a pilot film on "Gulliver's Travels," and the couple worked together in "High Barbaree," which starred Van Johnson and June Allyson.

A couple of years ago, the pair participated in research at John Hopkins, where they stayed for about 15 days. The hospital was doing research on the growth of Midgetry, attempting to find out why some grow and others don't; what the causes are; and determine the differences in midgets and dwarfs.

Buster adds, "There were eight midgets in that hospital wing, and we about took it over."

In the early years of WWII, Mrs. Resmondo was a recreation director in the Hawthorne-Lawndale area. Buster was employed by Douglas Aircraft for 13 years. They are both members of the Lawndale Christian Church.



—AP Wirephoto.

IT'S TOO HIGH—Claudia Bishop, 17, Douglasville, Ga., has trouble dialing the telephone. It's among problems of the "little people," an organization of individuals under 4 feet 11-in. Eileen Shanahan, 23, Chicago, 4 feet 3, looks on.

'Little People' Talk Of Life's Tall Problems

GLOUCESTER, N. J. (AP)—Did you ever visit a hotel and find the shower spigots too high?

Or have you tried to make a telephone call and found the mouthpiece too far above the floor?

Most likely not. But then, you're probably not one of the "little people."

Some 250 persons were expected today for the seventh annual convention of Little People of America Inc.

The only requisite for admission to the organization is that the applicant be less than 4 feet 11 inches tall.

The group has about 1,800 members "and there are probably many more in the United States who qualify but we haven't heard of them," said a spokesman.

"We have problems that normal people don't have," said George Baehm III of New York City. "At these annual conventions we are able to discuss those problems in addition to introducing little people to other little people."

"Had I not gone to the convention in North Carolina in 1962," said the 4-foot tall Baehm, "I'd not have met my wife." Baehm's wife, Christine or "Tina," is 3-feet-11.

Baehm, who works for his family's Baehm Container Co., said among the problems facing little people is employment.

"As the public is becoming adjusted to our size," he said, "more opportunities arise."

Very few of Little People of America's members are employed in show business, he said. They are active in "almost every occupation you can think of."

Probably the biggest problem facing them is simply that the world is designed for tall people.

Little People's Convention Stresses Problems Of Average-Size Living

An organization of dwarves opened its 12th annual national convention Monday in the Hilton Hotel.

Charles Bedow, 36-year-old president of Little People of America who is sales service supervisor for an insurance company in Owotanna, Minn., said some 250 dwarves will attend the convention this week.

LPA was organized in 1957, primarily as a social group, but also to give its members a chance to work out common problems.

According to Bedow, who is 4 foot 6, job discrimination is a major problem for dwarves. "We're still trying to convince employers that just because we're short in stature, we're not short in intelligence," he says.

LPA members come from almost every occupational field, including accountants, lawyers, television repairmen, secretaries, barbers, engineers, bankers and plumbers.

"We haven't found a little doctor yet," says Bedow, "but we're still looking."

Clothes Pose Problems

Another obvious problem for LPA members is clothes. Some have their clothes tailor made, others learn how to shop in children's departments. "The miniskirt boom was a big help for our women," the president said.

Dwarves live and work in an average-size world. "We don't live in doll houses or have a house full of baby furniture," says George "Joe" Alexander of Goldendale, Wash., convention chairman.

In the Alexander home, all of the kitchen appliances are normal size, but the builders installed an eight inch false floor for Mrs. Alexander's convenience. "Otherwise, we could never sell the house," Alexander said.

But the biggest problem that LPA members must overcome is the psychological reality that although they live in an average-size world, often with average-size parents and siblings, they look different because they're shorter than almost everyone else.

LPA offers social contacts which most persons normally get in their teen years, but which many dwarves may not get until they're adults.

75 Kinds Of Dwarfism

"You don't know what it's like," says Mrs. Sally Bedow, "to always go to school dances and sit on the side because your eyes would meet your partner's kneecap."

LPA conventions always have a dance so "we can dance with people and for the first time, look into their eyes."

There are about 75 different kinds of dwarfism; all are growth disorders caused by malfunctions of glands or bone structure. (Midget is an unpopular word with dwarves, a

leftover from show business which for many years, was the only area where dwarves could find employment.)

Dwarfism is a gene mutation, which becomes the dominant gene. Average-sized persons, with no family history of dwarves, can have a dwarf child. But that child, especially if he married another dwarf, will probably also have dwarf children.

The LPA convention, which will include a day at the beach, a talent show, fashion show and special meetings for parents, will continue through Friday.

'The Little People' Unite To Fight For Their Rights In A World Of 6-Footers

BY EDGAR C. HACKNEY

The midgets of the U.S. are banding together to fight for little people's rights.

They even have formed their own group, called the Little People of America, Inc.

The midgets say they have to stand together, to get along in a world made for people three feet taller than they.

The founder of Little People of America is Billy Barty, a TV showman who himself is a midget. "This organization has been a haven for midgets and dwarfs," he said.

"Not only is it a great place to exchange ideas on getting along in normal-sized society, but it provides fellowship.

"Little people run into problems every time they go out of their homes. Phone booths, vending machines, ticket windows, drinking fountains — nearly everything that normal people take for granted is

out of reach," Barty said.

This year, 300 of the group's 1,900 members came to the annual LPA Convention in Chicago to exchange ideas.

Said Joe Alexander, a midget speech therapist: "This is the one week each year when we are in the majority and have a chance to be eyeball-to-eyeball with someone.

"Most midgets — especially those in small towns — are one-of-a-kind type people. That is, there's no one like them in their communities.

"Most of us don't go out much, especially to do things which draw attention to ourselves. For instance, to go swimming in a public pool is a little embarrassing.

"But, at the convention, we can do

anything we want — swim, bowl, play baseball, you name it."

One college girl midget told EXPLOITER how she avoids one of the most common dangers of being a midget — getting stepped on in crowded places."

For instance, on entering an elevator, she says: "Watch your knees and elbows, folks, Remember me down here!"

The remark not only alerts everyone to her presence but puts them at ease.

A sense of humor toward the predicament of being small can pay off.

After one LPA convention in Los Angeles, a group of midgets decided to visit a nightclub.

One member phoned for reservations, saying: "We are midgets. That makes us half-size. Can we be admitted for half-price?"

The answer was no.

The midgets went to the club, anyway. And their presence attracted so much attention that the management gave them dinner and drinks on the house.

Members of the LPA don't consider themselves handicapped, only different.

But, at their convention, they are constantly reminded that, whether they like it or not, they are constantly on exhibition.

Therefore, they are urged to pay attention to the way they dress, behave and act in public.

Success stories of midgets like actor Michael Dunn — and, of course, Bill Barty himself — are pointed out as proof that midgetry is not a handicap to fame.

"You name any occupation," said Lee Kitchen, a dwarf in charge of 20 engineers at a precision tool company, "and 99 times out of a hundred, I can give you the name of a little person in that position."

Occasionally, being tiny is an asset to an employed midget — such as the guy, a member of LPA, who works for the Squirt Bottling Company.

He works in the promotion department as "The Little Squirt."

The LPA does more than just hold meetings to boost morale of its members.

Its members successfully lobbied for wider manufacture of special automobile controls so little people could drive.

The group has been successful in getting individual public places such as theaters to install low drinking fountains.

At a recent convention, a discussion group tried to establish just where a midget should draw the line in asking big people for help.

"I wouldn't go so far as to ask anyone to lift me, an adult, to a drinking fountain," said a



Two midget children, Peter and Karel Reckendorf, 4 and 3, at a Little People of America, Inc., meeting. Their mother is normal-sized.

young adult midget. "I'd rather go thirsty."

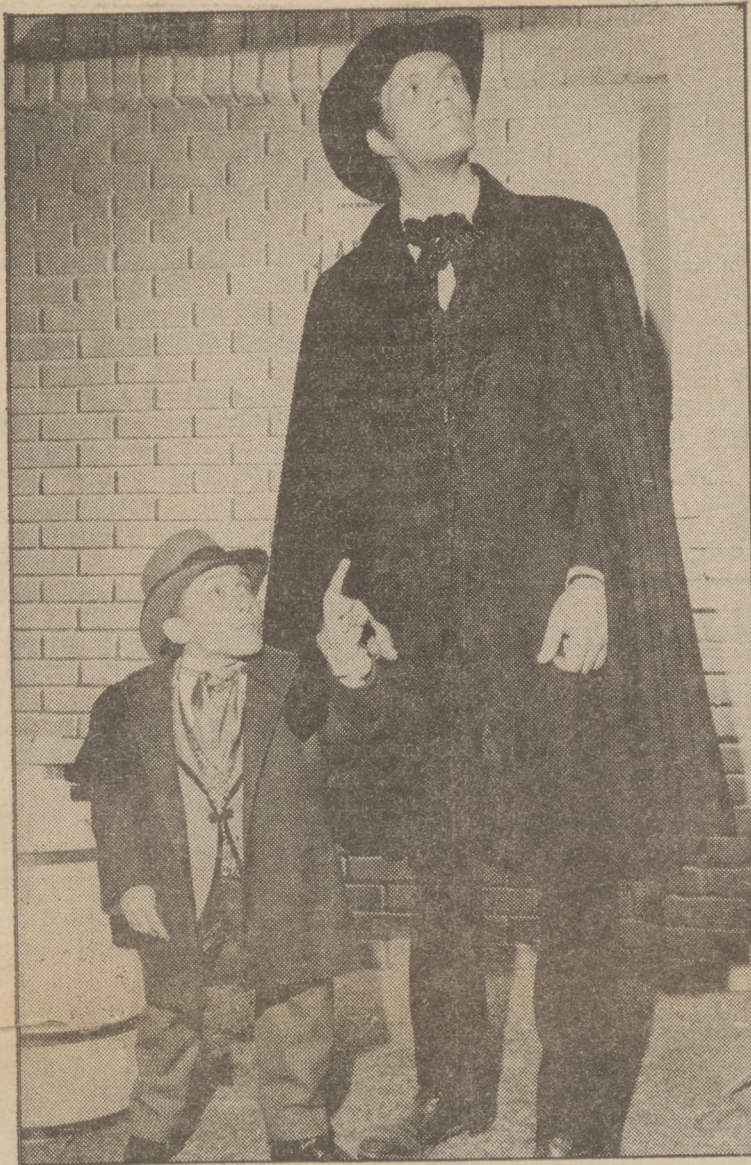
But he added: "However, I don't hesitate to ask someone to reach a book for me at the library, or hand me a pay phone receiver and dial the number."

The group agreed this was a

sensible approach.

And so it goes. For a midget, life down there is a constant challenge, full of new problems to be solved every day.

But the Little People of America, Inc., is meeting them. As its motto says: "Think Big."



A midget success story is that of actor Michael Dunn, who has had several big movie roles and who was a semi-regular on the TV show "Wild, Wild West" (above).



To a little person, a house cat looks as big as a tiger looks to a normal-sized person.

THE WORLD OF LITTLE PEOPLE

by LLOYD SHEARER

LAS VEGAS, NEV.

HAVE YOU EVER in your wildest dreams imagined yourself a midget?

Suppose you were only 3 or 4 feet tall, what sort of tiptoe life might you lead in this out-sized world of ours?

How would you drive a car? How would you reach the phone in a telephone booth? Where would you find adult clothes to fit you? How could you reach a counter in a cafeteria, a ticket booth in a theatre, a newsstand on the street corner?

A few weeks ago approximately 200 midgets and dwarfs gathered here at the annual convention of their association, The Little People of America.

They came together to inspire and encourage each other and to acquaint the public with their special problems.

According to the little people themselves, there are about 3,000 midgets and dwarfs in North America.

To them, a midget is a correctly-proportioned miniature copy of a man or woman of normal height. Most midgets vary between 3 and 4 feet in height.

Dwarf is a term applied by midgets to misshapen little men and women who are not correctly proportioned, although science groups all adults under the height of 4 feet 11 as dwarfs.

Midgets dislike being classified as dwarfs. At this convention they appointed a special "dictionary committee" to contact dictionary publishers throughout the world. They want the publishers to offer a more accurate definition of the word "midget." Most dictionaries now define a midget as "a very small person—see 'dwarf'."

What bothers most little people, both midgets and dwarfs, are the so-called normal people—persons like you and me.

Complains Bill Barty, 3-foot-6 actor who often works on the *Peter Gunn* TV show: "The average person regards us not as human beings with individual mentalities and skills but as freak playthings. Women pick us up and sit us in their laps. They pat us on the head and say, 'Aren't you a cute little darling.'"

"We don't like being treated as children. Among us we number actors, brokers, accountants, designers and machinists. And yet in most cases we are being discriminated against because of our size. People won't hire us for jobs we are qualified to perform because we're little."

Bob Brower, a midget from Des Moines, Iowa, who owns interests in three supermarkets, disagrees with Barty.

"We can't expect the world to adjust to us," Brower says. "We have to adjust to the world. Many little people won't do this. On the one hand they say they

want to be treated like everyone else. On the other hand they ask for special privileges.

"For example," Brower continues, "at this convention they've passed the following resolutions:

- "Half-fare on planes, trains and buses for little people.

- "Half-price meals, also lower cafeteria steam-tables 'so we can see what we are buying.' Also, members of the Culinary Workers' Union should notify its members to desist from addressing such remarks as 'What will you have, Sonny?'

- "Some shoe manufacturer should create midget-size shoes at reasonable prices, thereby freeing us little people from the high price of custom-made shoes.

- "A committee should meet with and importune the telephone company for phone booths reachable by 4-foot persons. The phone company should also include glass paneling in the lower portion of phone booths, so when a little person is making a call, a big person will not be trying to step inside.

Midgets Are Made

"What we need from the public," Brower contends, "is not special privilege or special equipment but understanding born of knowledge. Most people don't know that any man or woman may be the parent of a midget.

"Except in very rare cases, midgets aren't born. We're made. We're the result of faulty gland-functioning. Generally, an under-functioning pituitary gland produces a midget. Other glands like the thyroid and gonads are also involved.

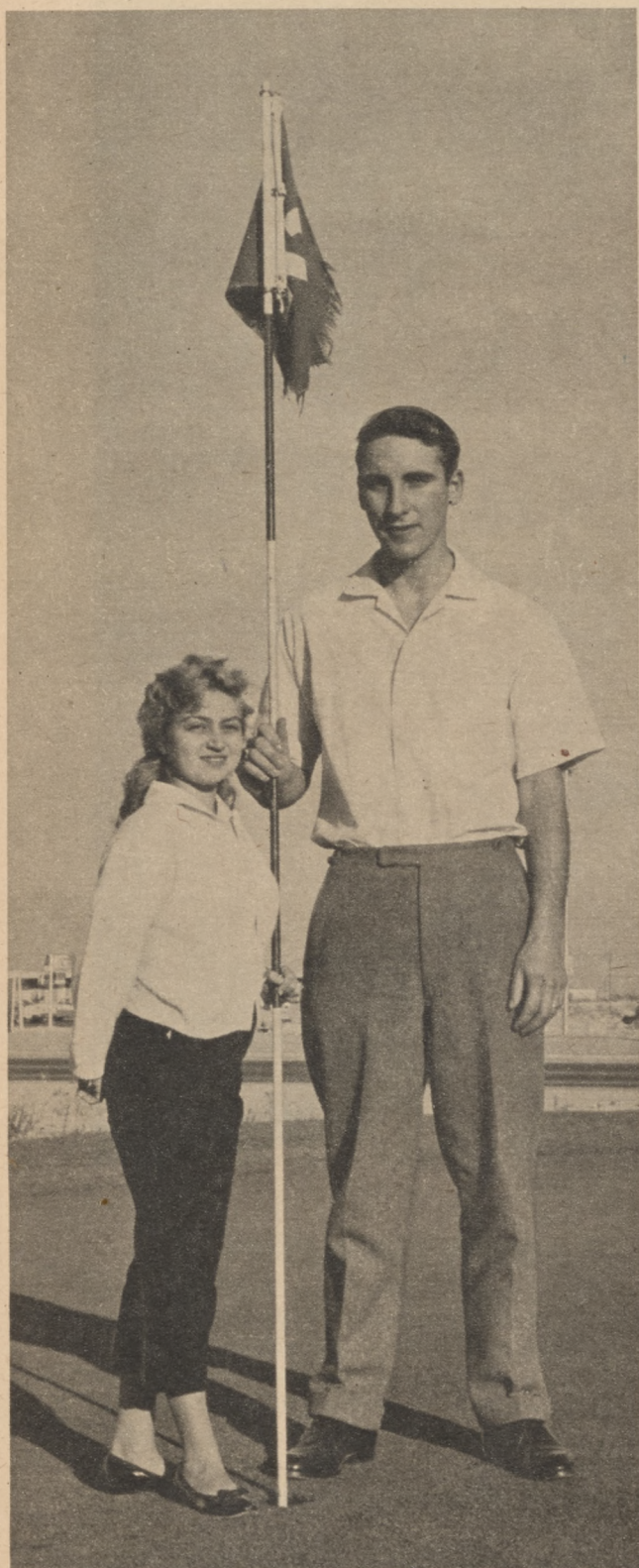
"In my own case," Brower reveals, "I was a normal baby at birth. I think I weighed 7 or 8 pounds. I was the second of seven living boys. My father, a farmer from Mexico, Mo., is 5 feet 8. My mother is 5 feet 1. I'm the only midget in our family.

"I stopped growing normally when I was 4 years old. I was then 3 feet 5 inches tall. By the time I was 16, I was only 3 feet 11.

"The worst part," Brower recalls, "is that my parents never realized there was anything wrong with me. They thought that sooner or later I'd start to grow and catch up.

"The first person who realized I was too short for my age was my high school principal in Vandalia, Missouri. He was a diabetic who made periodic visits to the Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. He brought my plight before the Vandalia Business Men's Club, and they paid for my first visit to Barnes.

"At the hospital they gave me shots of pituitin for three years. I started growing again after the treatments stopped. From age 18 to 25, I grew 11 inches. That's another thing people don't know about midgets. Our bone-ends do not close or ossify so that after 30 we can still grow several inches. Sometimes we can



Married couple: Ruth Spiering, whose parents are also midgets, poses with husband Dick, who stands 5 feet 10. About 50 per cent of midgets in U.S. marry persons of normal height.



Group here is a portion of the 200 midgets and dwarfs who showed up at Las Vegas, Nev., recently for annual convention of the Little People of America.

even outgrow our midgethood. I'm now 4 feet 10 and 33 years old. My wife is 4 feet 2.

"We have two adopted children. Insofar as I know we're the only midgets in the world who've been allowed to adopt normal children. As you probably know, midgets do not beget midget children. The children of midgets usually outgrow their parents before they are 9 years old."

Several midgets I interviewed here revealed that practically all midget mothers are delivered via Caesarean section. They are usually reluctant to bring babies into the world.

The reason for this is that whether one or both parents are midgets, the overwhelming odds—there are only a handful of exceptions—are that the children will be normal. And while normality and conformity bring happiness to a child, they invariably mean heartbreak to the midget parents.

The Daughter's Dilemma

"It's so very hard to describe," one little woman told me, "how I felt while my daughter was growing up. I prayed that she would grow tall and pretty and charming. And yet deep down inside I knew the day would come when she would be ashamed of me and her father, because we are midgets and different, and in the eyes of her schoolmates that would make her different, too."

"Well, my daughter grew up. She's 5 feet 6. But how that girl suffered. I remember the first time she brought a beau home and introduced him to us. He tried not to show it but he was shocked. He stopped going with her after that."

"Today my daughter is married to a very prosperous oil man in Texas or Oklahoma, but we never see her. She told her husband she was an orphan. The poor child was afraid that if she ever told any man the truth, she'd never get married. Her father and I understand and forgive her."

Most little people blame their parents for their mal-

adjustment to society. "My childhood was the most miserable one in the world," one dwarf confided to me. "My parents kept me hidden. If we were driving from one town to another and a car was passing us, they'd make me duck down. They were completely ashamed of me. They made me feel despicable and unwanted, and I can't remember how many times I contemplated suicide."

"I think practically every midget or dwarf when he first realizes his affliction, his handicap, is filled with such shock and despair that he starts to think of suicide. Only in cases where the parents are intelligent and understanding do midgets grow up with a relatively good chance to adjust to society."

One such well-adjusted midget is Frank Delfino of San Diego, Calif., whose midget daughter, Ruth, was the most beautiful little woman at the convention.

The son of Italian-American parents, Frank was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., some 50 years ago. He weighed 8 pounds at birth, enjoyed a normal, healthy infancy until he was 6. Then his growth lagged. His parents made him eat larger portions of food. When this did no good, they took him to the family doctor.

Specialists were consulted. They prescribed pituitary extracts. But at 13, Frankie was as tall as he had been at 5. He was 3 feet 8 inches tall.

Fortunately, the Delfino parents insisted upon treating their son as if he were a normal youngster. When Frankie said he wanted to try out for the football team at Brooklyn Technical High School or to play shortstop on the neighborhood baseball team, they told him to go ahead and do his best.

Over the years, Frank's friends and schoolmates came to accept him. He even won a varsity letter as a high school cheer leader. Frank's parents gave him violin lessons. He developed into an excellent musician. Surrounded by a family that exuded warmth, love and sympathy, Frank succeeded in adjusting physically and mentally to a world he never made.

In 1934 he came to Chicago as a violinist at the

World's Fair. There he met Sadie Williams, a midget who was working at a candy exhibition. By that time Frank had grown to 4 feet. Sadie was 3 feet 10.

They were married in Minneapolis in 1937. And seven months later a daughter, Ruth, was prematurely born to the couple.

Against the Odds

Ruth weighed 5 pounds 12 ounces at birth and measured 18 inches. "But even so," Sadie Delfino avers, "I knew instinctively that the baby was a midget. In many ways I was thankful because I knew it would be easier to raise her. There is only one other family I know of, the Clifton family in Austin, Tex., in which a midget mother had a midget baby."

Last July, Ruth Delfino, 23 years of age, 4 feet 3 inches in height, was married in San Diego to Richard William Spiering, 21, 5 feet 10 inches tall, of Monticello, Minn.

A beautiful woman, blonde and hazel-eyed and perfectly proportioned, Ruthie says, "I had the most wonderful childhood. My parents worked for the Curtis Candy Company, and as we traveled around the country together, we were such a closely-knit family, we were together so much of the time, that I never realized my parents or I were smaller than other people."

"I never felt strange even when I went to Woodrow Wilson Junior High. My first realization that I was a midget came in my junior year at Herbert Hoover High in San Diego. The teachers began asking me various medical questions about my background. They tried to find out why I was so small. It was only then that I realized I was different."

"The trouble with most parents who have a midget child is that they either place the child in show business or keep him hidden at home. In both cases the child begins to feel like a freak. My parents raised me perfectly. I'm a good secretary, if I say so myself, and I think I'm a pretty good wife."

Children Steal Scene

SECTION TWO

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The Oregonian HOSTESS HOUSE

PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1970



GEORGE "JOE" ALEXANDER of Goldendale, Wash., chairman of the Little People of America convention now in session at the Hilton Hotel, tries on golf sweater made specially for him by Eileen Nielsen (center). Mrs. Nielsen is of normal stature but gave sewing demonstration. Mrs. Ralph (Ferne) Vining (right) of Kelso won first prize in "made by self" category at little people fashion show. She wore a specially designed pants suit in the event.

By JEAN HENNIGER

Women's Editor, The Oregonian

You think you have problems finding fashionable, becoming clothes that fit?

Think about the little people, those less than four feet, ten inches tall, now holding their national convention in Portland.

A highlight of their sessions was the fashion show where members modeled clothes they had either made themselves or bought and altered or had made.

While some little people are perfectly formed but tiny (midgets), many are

dwarfs (achondroplasts) and were born with normal torsos but short limbs, protruding hips and often large heads.

Normal except in stature, they like to look as attractive as other people do, but the real challenge is clothes.

According to Kathryn Smith, who coordinates the growth studies of Dr. Victor McKusick for Johns Hopkins Hospital and so attends many Little People conclaves, the fashion show strives to inspire others how to overcome their unusual figure problems.

Another judge, Eileen Nielsen, also gave a demonstration on how to sew, knit and stretch garments after having had Mrs. Ralph Vining in one of her private classes.

Mrs. Vining's husband, also a little person, had adapted her sewing machine, raising the pedal so she could reach it.

Another winner was Kayla Kuhlman, 11, a 4-H member who makes most of her own clothes. How does she reach the pedal?

"I put it on an upside-



KAYLA KUHLMAN, 11, is a third year 4-H sewing whiz in Poulsbo, Wash. She made her blue jumper with buckles, adapting a commercial size 6x pattern.

Staff Photos by BRUCE McCURTAIN

down waste-basket."

Others stand at their machines.

And so there was a parade of garments, everything from ice skating outfit to ponchos, tunics, pants suits and jumpers.

Male members watched, applauded, whistled at the pretty girls and were shushed by their wives.

And then there was a dance.

Motto of the organization: "Think Big."

At Fashion Show



FROM Cleburne, Tex., Mary Beth Eley, 24, modeled a yellow poncho suit she bought in youth shop. Bob Hubof, 21, of Post Falls, Idaho, congratulated her for winning third place in the "purchased" division.



TODDLERS STOLE show. Peter, 4, and his adopted sister, Karel, almost 3, wore costumes made by their normal sized mother, Mrs. Frank Reckendorf, Salem.

I wandered over to Holiday Inn Central Monday to see the little people. It was a strange but fascinating experience.

I noticed boxes below the drinking fountain in the inn. Small pull sticks hung down from the elevator buttons.

And I was told the maids handling the rooms of the little people were instructed to keep the towels down low.



I walked into a ballroom in the basement and there were some 250 little people listening to their president, Charles Bedow:

"Let's remember now, it's all right to party at night as long as you leave the plaster on the walls." Laughter.

"We don't want people to think our convention is just fun and games. We don't need a bongo player in every room." Laughter.

And then down to the business at the eleventh national convention of Little People of America, the first time in Minnesota.

My interest was in its founder, Billy Bart, of North Hollywood, Calif., who is 44 years old and 3

BILLY BARTY

3 feet, 9 1/2 inches

feet 9 1/2 inches tall. [The smallest member is 27 inches.]

Billy is an old vaudeville veteran who now has his own show—a live, musical version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. He formerly did comedy and impersonations with Spike Jones and his City Slickers.

WE LEFT the ballroom and went into the lower lobby. I sat on a very low concrete bench and Billy stood. It still was necessary to look down at him.

"How tall do you have to be to join?" I asked.

Billy laughed. It was apparent he had no inhibitions about his size.

"You mean how short?" he said. Then he laughed again.

Billy explained you must be 4 feet 10 inches or under, and must be what is commonly known as a dwarf.

Some women are that short and are not dwarfs and, therefore, are not eligible to be members.

THE OBJECT of the organization, which Billy founded in 1957, is to do something about the practical and psychological problems of being small.

And a big part is educating taller people on how to understand little people.

"Many folks think we all are entertainers," said Billy. "Actually only one percent of us are. The rest are teachers, nurses, engineers, accountants . . ."

The rudeness of the taller ones is a problem, although it has improved in recent years.

"I was in a department store recently when a grandmother said to her grandchild: 'You be good or I'll have that little man over there bite you,'" recounted Billy.

"I'm an old hand at it and I laughed," he said. "But for the others, many of them young, it can be a hurt."

BILLY EXPLAINED that people tend to stare. "They do the same thing to Lou Alcindor." And the important thing is to get associated with the taller ones.

The convention, he said, usually goes like this:

"The first day everybody stares. The second day they begin to know us. The third day they join in. And then they don't want us to leave."

It was the first day and I noticed that everybody was staring. But the little people didn't seem to mind.

There are 50 different kinds of little people. Some are born that way, some develop a problem later.

One of the biggest problems they face is the attitude of parents. There is no predictability about little people. Tall parents have them, and little people have tall children.

But, often, the parents are reluctant to face reality.

"They dress their little people to size instead of age," said Billy, with 30-year-olds in Little Lord Fauntleroy.

"YOU FIND cases of 40-year-olds holding their parents hands while crossing the street," he said, obviously upset by such protection.

Billy believes in getting little people well adjusted. "We're not fooling ourselves. Life isn't easy. But one of the major space barriers is the one between our ears."

He long ago discovered that association with taller people enables them to "find us not as different as we look."

That was it. Billy had to leave to travel to the home of two Minneapolis little people, both teen-agers, who were shy about coming to the convention.

The little people will be around Minneapolis all week. If you have a chance go meet them. They're not at all as different as they look.

Dwarfs Hold a Convention

Little People Gather

In the lobby of the Hilton Inn at the Oakland Airport yesterday a white telephone sat on a stand two feet high with a sign that said, "Little People's House Phone."

Against the wall by the elevator stood a stick — to be used to push the button.

In the bathroom of many rooms there was a tool to reach the wash basin, and the towels were draped over special low racks.

For the Little People of America, Inc., was holding its 15th annual convention, with about 300 delegate dwarfs headed by Joe Alexander of Goldendale, Wash.

DWARFS

"We're dwarfs, not midgits," said Billy Barty of Hollywood, the movie and television actor who founded LPA in 1957. "Midgits are circus freaks."

(Technically, midgits are dwarfs who are perfectly proportioned. There are 55 types of dwarfism, which is a physical characteristic unrelated to mental ability.)

Barty, a stocky 3 feet 9½ inches, has appeared in 120 films — 75 of them during the '30s, as Mickey Rooney's brother.

VIEW

He sees a change in the attitude of big people toward dwarfs in the past few years — largely, he feels through media coverage of LPA conventions around the country.



ANNIS ARTHUR (LEFT) TALKED TO LES KRIMS
He's a photographer working on a book about the little people

"But we've still got a long way to go," he said. "Parents unwittingly — maybe wittingly sometimes — instill this freakish attitude in children. There's even a popular children's book with the definition: 'Dwarf — a mean, nasty little man seen

in fairy tales.'

"I was in Reno a while back and a woman threatnede her child: 'Stop that crying or I'll have that little man bite you.'

"I went up to the little girl and said, 'Honey, it's not me you have to worry about —

it's her.'" **PROBLEM**

What was his most aggravating problem as a dwarf?

Barty replied straight-faced: "Not getting a dramatic lead opposite Elizabeth Taylor."

A more common cause for annoyance is such architectural details as light switches or door knobs — inches beyond fingertips, reachable only if the dwarf stands on tiptoe.

"I was at Kennedy Airport and ran all over the place and couldn't find a phone in a single booth I could reach," he said. "I had to ask a big person to put my dime in and dial for me."

HOPE

Dr. Victor McKusick, head of the department of medicine at Johns Hopkins University, was the speaker at yesterday's luncheon.

He said the best hope at present for a remedy for a prevalent type of dwarfism — that caused by a deficiency in growth hormones — lies in the work of Dr. C. H. Li, University of California Medical Center biochemist, who synthesized the hormone in 1971.

Its eventual manufacture will make the hormone available to children afflicted with dwarfism.

"A little person can happen to anyone," Barty reminded newsmen. "Little people come from big people."



ADELE (TWINKLES) CHAMBORDON
A platform to reach the telephone

AUGUST
COAT SALE

\$110 to \$180

1973

Little People Meeting Here

By JOHN MILLER
Tribune Staff Writer

Making a telephone call from a pay phone or taking a drink from a water fountain are pretty commonplace events for most people.

But to an estimated 500,000 American adults, such mundane tasks can be a constant source of frustration and anxiety.

They are dwarfs, "little people" living in a "big" world.

And although many dwarfs have managed to overcome both the physical and psychological problems in being too small, many more have chosen to hide in the world of the small, living each day in fear of contact with the real world.

It was for this reason that the Little People of America was organized in 1957 by movie and television character Billy Barty.

Starting originally with 20 members, the organization now lists more than 2,000 and Barty remains their inspirational leader.

This week, Little People of America is holding its 15th annual national convention at the Oakland Hilton Inn and, as usual, Barty is taking part.

Barty said the stereotype of the dwarf as the mean, nasty little person in some fairy tale, is changing.

"Oh, we're still considered freaks by some people, but I think there has been a tremendous change for the better in the public's attitude toward us over the past few years," Barty said.

He explained that many parents of dwarf children added to the climate of superstition and ridicule by keeping their children out of sight and hidden from the real world. This left the child totally unprepared when it came time to deal with the "big" world outside.

"Being a little person can happen to anybody," the 3-foot, 9-inch Barty declared. The important thing to remember is that we're just like anybody else—only smaller."

Barty, who began his show business career at the age of three and has appeared in hundreds of motion pictures and television programs, said Little People of America exists to provide moral support and fellowship for dwarfs and to offer a forum for ideas to help solve problems confronting them.

The group also provides parents of dwarfed children with counseling, and other assistance.

Purpose of the week-long convention is to exchange ideas on education, job opportunities and state and federal legislation to benefit dwarfs and to provide members with an opportunity to consult with leading medical specialists from throughout the United States.



MARILYN ZELLMANN LIVES IN 'BIG' WORLD

Reporter John Miller interviews 'Little People'

More than 300 delegates from 12 nationwide districts are participating in the convention which includes a full schedule of business activities

as well as a fashion and talent show, baseball game, bowling tournament and dances. The convention motto is "Think Big."



TERRY SCHWALBY
Little woman, big chair



Staff Photos by Jim Hallas

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, in the midst of a national convention in Portland, take to game of billiards at Grand Central Bowl . . . and the gals came out on top. At upper left is Chip Woodyard of Washtucna, Wash.,

while at lower left, chuckling over their success, are Mrs. Larry Carr (left) of Beaverton and Kathy Ryan of Seattle. At far right is Chuck Gingrich of Olympia, Wash., lining up a shot.

'Little People' Find 'Eyeball' Championship

By DALE MCKEAN

Sports Writer, The Oregonian

"Eyeball to eyeball" is a common expression, but when used by one of the "Little People of America" the phrase takes on special significance.

"This is the one week a year when we are in the majority and we have a chance to be eyeball to eyeball with someone," laughed George (Joe) Alexander, pausing between frames of a Little People's bowling tournament at Portland's Grand Central Bowl Wednesday afternoon.

Alexander is a speech therapist from Goldendale, Wash. He's employed in the Klickitat County school district.

Alexander also is a midget — a word he would like to see stricken from the dictionary. "Please don't use that six-letter word," he cautioned this writer.

The Little People of America, Inc., are holding their national convention in Portland this week. And they are having fun — bowling, swimming and playing baseball.

Alexander is chairman of

the 1970 convention. He's also regional director of the organization in the six western states.

Because only one in about 10,000 is born a "little person", it's understandable when Alexander explains: "In our hometown environment we aren't going to expose ourselves too much."

"Getting into a swimming suit in a city pool is a little embarrassing."

Alexander said television showman Billy Barty, himself a little person, started the organization in 1957 in

Reno, Nev. This is their 12th national convention.

"We do things at our convention that you might consider mundane," added Alexander, mentioning such activities as swimming, bowling and baseball.

"What's so mundane about that?" he was asked.

"Who would spend \$1500 to come to a convention to bowl or swim when they are considered everyday activities," answered Alexander.

"There's a social atmosphere here . . . we feel much less inhibited," he continued, looking up at the 42

Little People participating in the bowling tournament. Scores ranged from a 209 down to "about 25", but what seemed important they were doing their thing without being self conscious.

Among the group was an inventor, a draftsman who also had part interest in a pecan company, a postal employee and a bridge construction worker.

"We're not restricted in any area except public understanding," Alexander noted.

"We have one common bond . . . we're short."

Parents Of Dwarf Child Confronted With Big Problems For Little People

"The only thing my children will never be is tall." That's the guiding philosophy of Frank Reckendorf, an average-sized geologist from Salem and the father of two dwarf children, who is attending the Little People of America national convention this week at the Hilton Hotel.

Little People of America, a national organization of dwarfs, has nearly 200 members under the age of 12. There are no estimates of the number of these youngsters in the country.

LPA refers to its youthful members as "little little's". They do what most children do during a national convention: they play.

But LPA has scheduled a special calendar of meetings this week for the parents of dwarf children to discuss their common problems and questions.

Problems Different

Reckendorf, who is chairman of the LPA parents auxiliary in the Pacific Northwest district, says the discussions usually fall into three categories.

First, parents are concerned with basic physical problems, where to buy shoes and clothes to fit a child whose trunk may be average size but whose limbs are much shorter than others of his wage.

Six-year-old Jimmy Evans of Tacoma, Wash., can wear a size 5 or 6 in a short sleeved shirt, but his pants must be size 2 or 3, and then the cuffs usually have to be hemmed. The problem will become more acute as Jimmy grows.

Adjustment Guided

Second, the parents also must deal with the social adjustment of their special children, when and how to discuss dwarfism with a toddler (most parents agree that you talk about it openly and lovingly as you would with an adopted child.) How will the child be treated by his teachers and classmates once he starts school? There is no pat answer for that question. Most children accept any handicap easily; social adjustment really becomes more difficult when the child becomes a teen-ager.

Third, LPA offers parents a chance to discuss their medical problems with the best experts in the country, doctors who specialize in dwarfism. Reckendorf says most doctors just can't answer their questions, such as will they be slower to develop motor skills, how soon will they walk, will



CONVENTION TIME for 4-year-old Peter Reckendorf (left) and 5-year-old Jimmy Evans means playtime. Both boys are dwarfs whose families are attending the Little People's Association convention at the Hilton Hotel. Their small size in no way limits their mobility.

their mental development be affected?

"Even a very good pediatrician is lucky if he sees three dwarfs during his entire practice," Reckendorf adds. "They just don't know very much about it."

Most average-size parents agree that having a dwarf child is a traumatic family event, especially if, as in some cases, the dwarfism is not di-

agnosed until the child is two or three years old. LPA does much to ease and erase that trauma.

Both parents and child get to know other such children, to know they're not the only ones in the world.

Perhaps more importantly, the child meets adult Little People, nice, active, contributing members of society who happen to be dwarfs.



DO-IT-YOURSELF FASHION

Joyce Engstrom, Forest Lake, made her own skimmer with lace trimmed sleeves and mock turtle collar.



A MINI PLAYSUIT

A halter top, bell bottom playsuit was made by wearer, Marcia Moore, Defiance, Ohio.

—Pioneer Press Photos by Don Church

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Hollywood Fun and Games

The Little People Meet

Hollywood today is the "little people" capital of the world as the Little People of America, Inc., holds its ninth annual convention in filmdom.

Meeting in the Hollywood-Knickerbocker Hotel, the national organization of midgets and dwarfs the convention has a two-fold purpose, according to its national president, Lee Kitchens, of Texas.

"We meet," he explained, "to have fun and to conduct the business of the LPA. We work with our membership in the social development and adjustment any person with obvious physical disadvantages might find. We share experiences and how to cope with our day to day encounters.

"We do not like the word 'problem' because a problem does not have a solution. We have solutions. We reduce them to the category of nuisances."

Such problems as how to make a telephone call in a booth without a seat in it; dresses, suits, shoes and driving a car are also some of the "nuisances" but the little people make light of them.

While these people might be little physically, they hold some big jobs. Only 1 per cent are in show business.

Positions represented by the 875 membership and the 225 attending the convention, which ends Friday are electronic engineering, teaching, laboratory

technicians.

Others are nurses, chemists, accountants, secretaries, business executives, insurance underwriters, speech therapists, controller for a market chain and service station owners.

Total number of little people in America is somewhere between 5000 and 20,000 and both Kitchens and the organization founder, Billy Barty, said they hope the 1970 census can aid in getting an accurate count of this population.



—Herald-Examiner Photo

THE SOLUTION TO ONE 'NUISANCE'
Felix Silla phones from shoulder of Emory Souza



SHORT HARD DAY--National president Bob Brower sprawls on a motel couch after an exhausting day at the convention. The convention will last through Thursday.

*They Meet Each
Year To Discuss
Woes Of Living
In 6-Foot World*

1900 Dwarfs Band Together Against Normal World



Little People Show Mini-Fashions

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TAILOR MADE FOR EV
A Hong Kong tailor whipped
wear for members Mr. and
Brower, Scottsdale, A

Few people appreciate miniskirts as much as little people. Fashion wasn't too kind to people under 4 feet 10 until a few seasons ago when the mini hit. Flirt skirts, for example, have been a boon to gals who would be lost in normal length ready-to-wear.

A number of ways of solving a particular fitting problem were illustrated Tuesday night at the annual fashion show sponsored by the Little People of America, convening in Holiday Inn Central, Minneapolis, through Friday. Pictured here are a few of the members who modeled garments from their own wardrobes.



ROYAL LITTLE PEOPLE receive honors Thursday at the Little People of America convention in Minneapolis — some obviously with mixed emotions. Crowned King and Queen at left are Donna Hess, Mobile, Ala., and Franklin Lentini, Auburn, N.Y. At center are Teen Princess Darlene

Watson, 19, Blackwood, N.J., and hidden from view, Prince Tommy Hagermann, 15, Muscatine, Iowa. In foreground are Junior Prince and Princess, Jill Bedow, 2, Owatonna, and Scott Ference, 2 1/2, Pittsburgh. —Pioneer Press Photo by Spence Hollstadt.

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The Little People's Holiday

A photographic visit to a small convention



"I'm not an elf, I'm a short-statured man, and I don't belong in the circus," proclaims fifteen-year-old Larry Morse of Flint, Michigan, who stands thirty-seven and a half inches tall. Larry is a member of Little People of America, a national organization for anyone under four feet, ten inches. Little People of America is concerned with the practical, psychological, economic, medical, and social problems of smallness. Each year it holds a convention and this year's was at the otherwise bland Hilton in Oakland. "We celebrate being ourselves," explains Nick Della Valle, who works in public relations in Chicago. L.P.A.'s convention is like all others—there are symposia, dances, sporting events, mixers. Says Gracie Oliver, seventeen: "I plan to experience all I can in life." Says David Norris, nineteen: "The small world helps me face the tall world." And, according to three-foot, nine-inch actor Billy Barty, who started the L.P.A. in 1957: "Kids today have a better shot. Little People of America advises, 'Live in *both* worlds. Accept yourself and you can accept anything.'"



Portrait of family and friends: Oakland was the first convention for Larry (plaid jacket) and Kent and Kim Page (jacketless), teen-age twins from Tucson. "I haven't had so much fun since I was born," remarks Larry. "It's the one time I can be just me," adds Nick Della Valle (back row, center). And, says Adele Chamborden (left), a perennial convention favorite, "Always think big. You are as God wants you to be."



The fashion show: One event at the convention was a program which featured clothing made by and for little people. "The purpose," reports Annis Arthur, top, "is to tell little people they can sew. Older ladies often settle for things bought in a children's shop. Well, we can be stylish and have clothes fit us." The photograph on the bottom was also taken at the show—and features examples of attire for a small wedding.



The softball game: This year, the West team, shown here, defeated the East. One participant was André Boursse, a social-science student from Hayward, California. Boursse, an articulate spokesman, says, "My



philosophy is that you can do anything you want. I play golf. I could be a ballplayer in a league for little people. Society doesn't adapt for differentness, yet most people are different in some way. The norm is a myth."



Couples: Laurel Goodkin and Larry Green, top, and Annis Arthur and Gary Friedkin, bottom, were introduced at L.P.A. conventions. Harriet Stickney, vice-president of the organization, says that "most dwarfs have average-sized parents who come to realize that their children are happiest dating and marrying another dwarf." Little People of America offers its members marriage counseling and a child adoption service.

